

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2007. In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 11-12, 15, 18, 25-28 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claim 3, 16, 19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Formal Request for Examiner's Interview

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the allowability of the pending claims especially if, after his review, there are still outstanding rejections regarding patentability. The undersigned attorney can be reached at the telephone number listed below.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being allegedly indefinite. Applicants disagree because, while Applicants claim the benefit back to February 2003, the IEEE 802.3af was approved on June 23, 2003. Hence, the recitation of the IEEE 802.3af standard is proper. However, to clarify that the claimed connector is able to provide power to any type of powered device besides IEEE 802.3af compliant devices alone, the reference with respect to IEEE 802.3af standard has been removed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112 rejection of claim 12.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 11-12, 15, 18, 25-28 and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Elkayam (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0099076 A1). Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot be established.

As the Examiner is aware, to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Vergegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

For instance, with respect to independent claims 1, 15 and 25, Elkayam does not describe the claimed elements of a connection module, which is now explicitly identified as a component mounted to a circuit board, where the component includes a jack and *embedded* circuitry within the component (connection module). The circuitry is configured to perform Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) operations by supplying power through the jack

. In accordance with the specification, the “connector module” is a component mounted to a circuit board. *See paragraph [0057] of the subject application.* Moreover, this module, referred to in the specification as the “Ethernet jack module 230,” is embedded with PoE components. *See paragraph [0022&0025] of the subject application.* In contrast, Elkayam is directed to a daughter card/motherboard implementation and does not describe the connector module with embedded PoE circuitry as claimed. In contrast, the daughter card (Ethernet switch board 14) features Ethernet connectors (24) that clearly do not feature PoE embedded functionality. In fact, sub-circuits (58) perform such functionality and Power-over-LAN support circuitry (55) is illustrated separate from the connectors (24). *See FIG. 2 of Elkayam and paragraph [0076].*

In summary, since Elkayam does not describe the embedded PoE functionality, and also does not suggest such embedded PoE functionality as claimed, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1, 15 and 25.

With respect claims 2, 11-12, 18, 26-28 and 32-33, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for the subject matter contained in these claims. However, Applicants respectfully believe that such discussion is moot based on the allowability of these claims based on their dependency on independent claims 1, 15 and 25. Applicants reserve the right to raise arguments against the rejections if an appeal is warranted.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding §103(a) rejection as applied to independent claims 1, 15 and 25 and those claims dependent thereon.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam in view of Binder (U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0047431). While Applicants disagree with the rejection based on the claimed subject matter, further discussion of the grounds for rejection are moot based on the allowability of claim 1. Applicants reserve the right to present additional arguments if this claim is still not found to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam in view of Pannell (U.S. Patent No. 6,977,507). While Applicants disagree with the rejection based on the claimed subject matter, further discussion of the grounds for rejection are moot based on the allowability of claim 15. Applicants reserve the right to present additional arguments if this claim is still not found to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Elkayam fails to describe or suggest a Power-Over-Ethernet (PoE) circuit adapted for controlling power supplied over a plurality of Ethernet jacks. The PoE circuit is embedded in a component featuring the plurality of Ethernet jacks. Elkayam does not describe or suggest any embedded PoE circuitry within the module featuring the Ethernet jacks as claimed.

Withdrawal of the outstanding §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Elkayam. While Applicants disagree with the rejection based on the claimed subject matter, further discussion of the grounds for rejection are moot based on the allowability of claim 19. Applicants reserve the right to present additional arguments if this claim is still not found to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

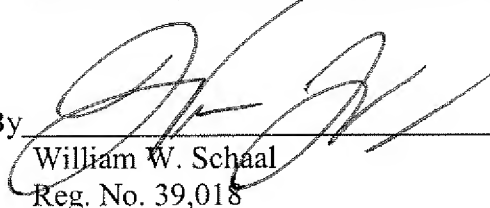
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 28, 2007

By



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